

Fast Rising Soprano Set For Torrance Appearance

One of the fastest rising stars among sopranos today is the brilliant Leontyne Price, who will appear in Torrance on Monday night, Feb. 21, in joint concert with the Torrance Area Youth Band under the sponsorship of the Youth Band—Artists Concerts Assn.

Perhaps the one event that helped more than any others to focus international attention on Miss Price was her stunning singing and dramatic acting as Bess in the recent, highly successful revival

of the Gershwin-Heyward opera "Porgy and Bess." Touring Europe and America from June, 1952 to June, 1954, the production was lauded everywhere for its good fortune in having such a magnificent soprano and gifted actress. Both critics and public revisited the production just to see and hear Miss Price in such cities as Washington, Vienna, Berlin, London, Paris, Chicago, Dallas, Pittsburgh, Richmond, Philadelphia, Boston, Cincinnati, Detroit, Cleveland, Milwaukee, and of course, New York where it had an eight-month run on Broadway.

Talents
The background and training of this exceptional artist prior to her appearance in "Porgy and Bess" indicate the great talent and serious purpose of Leontyne Price in making the most of her unusual gifts. A native of Laurel, Miss., after she had completed her high school education and had become quite proficient as a pianist, her parents sent her to Wilberforce College in Ohio. She planned to train as a teacher.

But, shortly after she joined the college glee club, it became apparent that Miss Price had a rare, natural voice and an extraordinary singing capacity. All solo parts, consequently, were then assigned to her.

Following graduation, her enthusiasm and determination to sing, along with her marked ability, won her a Scholarship for advanced study at the Juilliard School of Music in New York. During the next three years, her living expenses were borne by a prominent lady from her home town, a banker's wife and a musician herself.

As a member of the Juilliard Opera School, Miss Price performed in numerous student productions, including Verdi's "Falstaff," in which she sang the role of Mistress Ford. Her crystal-clear singing so impressed Virgil Thompson that he engaged her for an important role in the revival of his opera, "Four Saints in Three Acts," which then played in New York during the spring of 1952.

Following this role she immediately signed for the part of "Bess" in the revival of

for her concert performances. Contract commitments precluded her leaving the cast of the national touring company of "Porgy and Bess" until June, 1954—mostly only for "one-night stands"—to give several extremely interesting performances both here and abroad.

In April, 1953, in New York, she was selected to introduce a new song cycle, "La Voyante," (performed with orchestra) by the brilliant French composer, Henri Sauguet, which Olin Downes of the New York Times noted "also served to reveal in a new aspect the remarkable interpretive art of the soprano, Leontyne Price—last night (she) proved herself an interpreter with a beautiful voice, excellently placed, and most flexibly and expressively employed. Nor was the singing Miss Price's only asset. She is a very accomplished pantomimist—the performance was a triumph."

re-engagements as soloist with the Boston Symphony both in Boston and in Carnegie Hall, New York, and in appearance with William Warfield, her husband, with the Philadelphia Orchestra. Her latest triumph was the title role of "Tosca" presented recently on the NBC-TV Opera Theater.

Season ticket holders to the Youth Band—Artists Concerts will be able to bring "guests" to hear Miss Price in Torrance on Feb. 21. "Guest" tickets will sell for \$1 each.

WOOL WEIGHT
Balsa wood, said to be the lightest known, weighs only seven pounds to the cubic foot, it is estimated.

FEB. 10, 1955

TORRANCE HERALD Twenty-one

Tire Swiped Off Car

Somebody took the front wheel and tire off her car in the parking lot at Harbor General Hospital, where she works. Eloise Pryor, of Los Angeles, told sheriff's deputies Thursday. Loss was set at \$20.

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Smog Citations Up 500 Per Cent Chace Notes

Convictions and citations for smog violations have shown a sharp increase since the appointment by the Board of Supervisors of Captain Louis Fuller as smog enforcement officer, it was revealed Tuesday by County Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

According to Chace, records show that since taking office 30 days ago Fuller has been instrumental in increasing the number of convictions obtained for violations of the air pollution laws by 200 per cent over January of 1954. Citations issued to violators in the same period show a 500 per cent increase, Chace said.

Chace pointed out that in the first 30 days of Fuller's tenure of office 462 citations were given to smog violators in contrast to 259 issued in January of 1954. In addition, 131 court cases were filed by Fuller, while in January of 1954 only 31 cases were filed.

Chace also disclosed that Fuller, in the month he has held his post, has obtained 97 convictions, while in January of last year only 32 violators were convicted.

"These figures vividly illustrate," Chace said, "that Captain Fuller has brought to the Air Pollution Control District a vigorous and intelligent, and certainly impartial, approach to this important work."

Chace further complimented Fuller, saying that "it has come to my attention in the past month that Captain Fuller has not only been vigorous and impartial in his enforcement of the law, but has been able to effect a feeling of cooperation between municipalities, industries, and the Air Pollution Control District to work out the many air-pollution problems confronting them."

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